

# Support in Birmingham for children and young people with a special educational need or disability (SEND)

*Information for families*



## About this leaflet

This leaflet explains how Birmingham City Council's supports children and families with special educational needs in your area. You can also view this guide at <https://localoffer.birmingham.gov.uk/>

## What is the SEND and Inclusion Service?

In Birmingham, we have a range of specialist inclusion support services. These offer advice and support to children and young people aged 0-25 who have a special educational needs or disability, their families, early years, schools or post-16 educational settings.



## Help where you live

We have four teams of staff working in the North, East, West and South of Birmingham. Each team includes:

- Educational psychologists
- Advisory teaching services
- Speech and language therapists
- Occupational therapists
- Nurses
- Family support workers
- Parent link officers

If you would like more information on any of these teams, please visit <https://localoffer.birmingham.gov.uk/> or call the Parent Link contact line.

## Parent Link Service

The Birmingham Parent Link Service is the first point of contact for parents and carers who are not sure who they need to support them, where to go for help or just want to ask a question. You can call the Parent Link Contact Line on 0121 303 8461 or email at: [ParentLinkService@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:ParentLinkService@birmingham.gov.uk)

### The Contact Line is open:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 9am – 5pm

Wednesdays: 9am-4pm

You can also chat to a Parent Link Officer at a Parent Link Forum. These are regular meetings that take place in your local area. Find out more information about parent forums including where your nearest forum is at <https://localoffer.birmingham.gov.uk/>

## Help in school

Most children with a special educational need or disability go to their local mainstream school. They may have a plan that says what the school is doing to help them to make progress.

If your child has more complex needs, your school may ask the specialist inclusion support services to give them some advice. Together with you they may write a SEND Support Provision Plan which details everything that is being done to help your child at school and may ask the local authority for some extra money to pay for this.

## Education Health and Care Plan

Some children with very complex needs, particularly those that require a specialist setting, may need an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan. This includes all the information about your child's needs and the support that will be provided to them, now and in the future.

If so, schools will work with you and our Inclusion Team to ask the Local Authority if your child can be assessed for this. Parents and carers can also ask the Local Authority for an assessment. A useful person to discuss this with would be the Parent Link Officer.

You can find more information and advice at <https://localoffer.birmingham.gov.uk/>

## How we're supporting families of children with SEND

Below are just two examples of how the SEND and Inclusion service has helped children with SEND and their families. You can read more stories like this at <https://localoffer.birmingham.gov.uk/>

*"I was contacted by my son's school to say that, because of his behaviour, he could be at risk of exclusion. My son has autism and I didn't really know who to talk to at school to get help. I rang the parent link contact line and spoke to a parent link officer who helped me to arrange a meeting with the school SENCo. In this meeting we talked about the school using the strategies that helped at home.*

*We also talked about the specialist advisory team for ASD, who were able to come to the school to support the class teacher to work in different ways. My son is really happy going to school now and on the days he struggles, the school have things they can do to help him. I also know that the specialist team are always there to provide support and advice."*

*"My daughter was diagnosed with a hearing loss when she was two months old. The teacher of the deaf visited me at home from the very beginning and gave me ideas to develop my daughter's listening and language. The teacher helped me understand the special technology we needed and was a great link with local health services. They also helped me to choose the right nursery for my daughter and together we planned a 'transition package'. The nursery staff were trained about deafness and a SEND Support Provision Plan was put in place. This plan is really helpful because it describes my daughter's needs and how to support her. She's having the best time in nursery and is making lots of progress."*